GEORGE A. AND LUCY SMITH WHITTAKER DAVIS

George A. Davis, son of Albert Wesley Davis and Melissa Jane Lambson, born July 7, 1877, in Salt Lake City. Died November 28, 1939.

Lucy Smith Whittaker, daughter of David Moroni Whittaker and Mary Ann Smith, born January 5, 1885, in Salt Lake City. Died February 6, 1927.

Their early youth was spent in Salt Lake City. They attended schools there. He also attended the LDS College.

Having worked in the Church, on March 15, 1899 George was ordained an Elder, in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, by Joseph F. Smith, and on December 10, 1899, he left for a mission to the Hawaiian Islands. While out on this work, the City of Honolulu was quarantined for Bubonic Plague, and he was called to go on guard line to guard the city to see that no one left. He was appointed a special police officer for three months and ten days until the close of the quarantine. From this work he was called back to mission headquarters, and given other duties. He was appointed over-seer of the Laie Plantation from April 15, 1901, to April 6, 1903, when he was released and appointed to preside over the Hilo, Hamakua, and Kohala conferences until August 14, 1903. He was released from his mission and returned home September 11, 1903.

On January 27, 1904, he was called to the Stake Mission for the Salt Lake Stake, and was set apart to this work by Joseph E. Taylor.

Upon arriving home from his mission he worked on the farm owned by his father. He started going with Lucy Smith Whittaker and they were married February 4, 1904, in the Salt Lake Temple. He continued in the farming, and they were both active in Church work.

The Davis family moved to Midway, May 6, 1916, purchasing the Maria Schoney Mitchell home in Stringtown where they lived until the death of their oldest son, George, in 1924. At that time they returned to Salt Lake.

George was active in civic and church affairs. He had a fine herd of Jersey dairy cows, and sold milk and cream to the Mutual Creamery Company. He was a director and president of the Citizen's Mercantile Co., a member of the Midway Town Board, a member of the Amusement Board of Midway and a member of the Genealogical Society of Midway.

In Church affairs he was a teacher and chorister of the Midway Second Ward and then served as second counselor to Bishop Jacob Probst in the Second Ward. He was also a leader in the High Priests group and the parent teacher in the Sunday School. He sang and preached at many funerals.

Mrs. Davis worked in the Primary, the Relief Society and the MIA of the Second Ward, and was known as a gentle, patient, sympathetic woman. Though she was partially blind she never complained, and always had a cheerful smile for everyone. She was particularly noted for her flower gardens.

Children of George and Lucy Davis included:

David Moroni, married Coralyn Adamson and had three daughters:

Willard Wendell, married Allanson B. McKean and had three sons.

Lucile Davis, married to Charles Frank Parker, two children:

Albert Fielding Davis, married Fay Hepworth, had one child;

Nina Mary Davis, married to Ray Fred Kohler, had two children.

LIME KILNS

Another vital element of building was lime, and Midway had several kilns where lime was produced. 576

Early producers of lime selected suitable mounds or hills where they could dig a kiln into the hill. They then sealed off the kiln to create a virtual oven and burned the lime rock for several days to take away the impurities and form a sticky lime powder.

The first kiln probably was the Snake Den kiln, owned by William Van Wagoner Sr. He used a mound or hill that was about the same size and shape as the one at the Homestead. Mr. Van Wagoner produced lime that was tested as 98 per cent pure, and shipped it to all parts of the country.

In addition to its use as a building material, lime was also used as a whitening agent in sugar. Many sugar factories in Utah purchased lime produced in the Midway area.

Lime Canyon kiln was probably built next, but the rock was too hard and failed to burn properly, so the kiln failed. Another kiln was built west and south of the Fox Den, southeast of Midway. The rock here had no weight and so the lime would not sell, causing the failure of this kiln in a short time.

In 1905 another lime kiln was erected on the Huber farm by Fred Barben, but he failed to build his kiln far enough into the hill, so that the outside of the structure kept breaking away, allowing the heat to escape.

The second successful kiln was built on Memorial Hill and lasted many years. It was first owned by John Van Wagoner and his brother, William. Fred Haueter Sr. tended the fires.

Three days and nights of steady burning were required to finish a kiln of lime. White pine wood was used to keep the fires going. Some tried to use coal, but this proved unsatisfactory, since the heat from the coal stayed too close to the bed of coals and did not penetrate through the lime rock.

Mr. Haueter, who tended the fires, would stay awake during an entire burning job, sawing the cord wood as it was needed. The fires had to be kept at an even, steady heat to produce the proper sticking in the lime.

Fred O. Haueter, followed in his father's footsteps at the lime kiln, and later bought the business from the Van Wagoner brothers. Young Mr. Haueter continued to use his father's method of burning, and sawed the wood as he would burn a kiln. His business was very successful and he continued for many years.

Lime was sold by the bushel, and usually could be purchased for about 15 to 20 cents per bushel. Some 150 pounds of unburned lime rock were required to produce 50 to 60 pounds of finished lime.

John Peterson and Royal Huffaker assisted Mr. Haueter at times in the kiln. The last lime taken from this kiln was used in building the

Midway Town Hall. The lime used was burned by Fred O. Haueter in 1939-41. Others to work at the trade were Thomas Bonner, Henry T. Coleman and Nephi Huber.

MARBLE QUARRY

Marble of high quality was discovered high in the hills at the head of Snake Creek Canyon by Sidney Epperson shortly after Midway was established. From this quarry huge blocks of marble were brought down the rugged, twisting canyon on two-wheeled carts drawn by oxen. The slabs were taken to the Cornelius Springer homestead where they were fashioned into usable blocks. An early use of the marble was for headstones, some of which can still be seen in the Midway Cemetery.

One of the early owners of this quarry was Fredrick Buehler. Later, Andrew Gebhardt of Salt Lake City bought the quarry for $1,000. He changed the name to the Wasatch Marble Company of Utah and established the company headquarters in Salt Lake City. The quarry continued successfully through the 1880's.

ICE STORAGE

Refrigeration in Midway's early years was accomplished through cutting and storing of ice in chilly winter months and utilizing it in the hot days of summer.

As sub-zero winter weather formed thick layers of ice on lakes and ponds, crews would take large saws and cut the ice into chunks that could be stored. Usually the ice was cut into blocks weighing between 100 and 125 pounds. The blocks were carried by sleighs to storage houses where they were stacked and covered by thick layers of sawdust.

Persons with lakes or ponds on their property would usually sell the ice for 15 cents a ton if the buyer would cut it, or as much as 50 cents a ton if it was pre-cut.

Two-man, cross-cut timber saws were used to cut the ice, with the handle on one end of the saw removed. Lines for sawing were laid out on the ice with a straight board. Ice tongs were used to remove the chunks of ice. The work was slippery and cold, and many a man fell into the icy cold water and had to be dried out before he could resume working. Teams of horses were known to break through the ice also, creating great excitement and often suffering before the animals could be hauled out of their freezing predicaments.

As summer time came, the saw-dust would be scraped or washed from the ice to provide refrigeration. If properly stored, the ice would usually last through most of the summer.

Ice entrepreneurs included Marks Jeffs and Nels Johnson who sold from the mill pond. The Rasband brothers had a pond west of the Provo River bridge between Midway and Heber. Retail outlets for ice included Coleman's Store, William Watkins and William L. Van Wagoner's stores.

The following have served as Representatives to Legislature: J. B. Wilson, John T. Giles, Rock M. Pope, W. L. Van Wagoner, George A. Fisher, Fredrick Crook, Paul Hunt, James B. Wilson, William L. Van Wagoner, Wayne C. Whiting, Don Clyde, Welby Young, Harold Stevens, Addison C. Moulton, Leland W. Ivers and Robert F. Clyde.

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Guy E. Coleman, winner of the 1960 Mark Tuttle Award for outstanding county leadership during 30 years as a member of the Wasatch County Commission.

. . . AND THEY GOVERNED WISELY 31

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